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2. EFFECT OF AILA STORM ON FLYING FOX *PTEROPUS GIGANTEUS GIGANTEUS* (BRUNNICH)

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During the course of studies on the bio-ecology of Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus giganteus* (Brunnich) at Joteghanashyam area of Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, India, we took the opportunity to note the impact of Aila storm on a bat population occurring in the area. Our study programme was stimulated by a news broadcast on the radio and television announcing the approaching Aila storm. The senior author (SM) reached the site – a Silk Flower tree (*Albizia lebbek*) – which was inhabited about 800 *P.g. giganteus* individuals, at 08:00 hrs on May 25, 2009. The Silk Flower tree was 42 m tall with a canopy of 12 m diameter with well-developed branching system. The tree was situated on a hill inside a village. The weather was cloudy and it began drizzling at around 09:35 hrs. SM continued observing the bats from the ground. The ground below the tree canopy was clean. Aila appeared suddenly at 10:46 hrs. The wind speed was very high (110 km/hr, as per local Meteorological Station); unable to stand under the Silk Flower tree SM took shelter in a nearby house. The wind speed remained at about 110 km/hr for the first 10 minutes.

Thereafter, it decreased gradually and by 11:56 hrs the weather condition permitted SM to step out and visit the bat colony.

SM noticed a big and three small branches of the Silk Flower tree and 47 dead bats lying on the ground. Almost all the bats had blood oozing from the mouth. Forty-four bats were collected by the locals for feasting, while three were carried away by a mongoose (*Herpestes* sp.) into its burrow. The bats hanging from the tree had a blank look; in fact none of them left the tree to forage that night. However, the next evening (on May 26) they left the tree to forage.

In this case, 47 bats could not survive the severity of Aila storm. But it is not clear whether the speed of the wind or an attempt to seek a safe shelter dislodged them from the tree. Whatever the reason it is likely that once dislodged from the branch they failed to sustain themselves in the air because of the high speed of the wind, and therefore, fell to the ground. Thus, it is apparent that such natural calamities not only kill individuals but also create panic in the surviving individuals of *P.g. giganteus* for at least 24 hours.

3. FIRST RECORD OF LESSER FALSE VAMPIRE BAT (*MEGADERMA SPASMA* LINNAEUS, 1758) IN GIR NATIONAL PARK & SANCTUARY

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On May 10, 2008, during my research on Striped Hyena *Hyaena hyaena* in Gir National Park and Sanctuary, I and my field assistant were in the Chodawadi range of the Park. We were approaching Dungarphadi a permanent water body at Ardak river for searching active dens and other evidence of

Striped Hyena. There was no road or trail to Dungarphadi; it was a savannah type forest. After some time we started walking along a dry stream. After a few hundred metres walk, I located a sandy den (21° 08' 02.5" N; 70° 51' 08.7" E) and entered it cautiously. The den was an abandoned Indian

Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica* den. While I was observing the den, a bat suddenly flew out, and settled on a tree nearby. I photographed the bat so that I could identify it later.

I compared photographs of the bat with the ones recorded from Gir and also with descriptions from Bates and Harrison (1997), Menon (2003) and Prater (2005). According to the Gir Management Plan, only two species of bats have been reported from Gir (Singh and Kamboj 1996), namely Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus* and Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus sphinx*. To confirm the identity of the bat I sent the photographs to Dr. Paul Bates, a bat specialist, Dr. Asad R. Rahmani (Director, BNHS), and Dr. Sandeep Kumar (Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir). The bat was identified as a Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma*. This is the first documentation of the Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* from the Gir National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat.

False vampire bats are tailless bats belonging to an ancient and carnivorous family Megadermatidae, which include five species in four genera (Bates and Harrison 1997; Macdonald 1999). There are two species of false vampire bats found in India: Greater False Vampire Bat *Megaderma lyra* and Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma*. These

bats have long oval ears that have a distinct smaller "inner ear" or tragus. The easier way to differentiate them is by the shape of their noseleaf. Lesser False Vampire Bat has short, broad and heart-shaped noseleaf base, while Greater False Vampire Bat has a much elongated noseleaf (Bates and Harrison 1997).

Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* is known from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South-East Asia to Java, Philippines and Molucca Islands (Bates and Harrison 1997). In India, it is distributed in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram and Andaman Islands (Bates and Harrison 1997; Menon 2003).

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4. RECENT RECORDS OF GAUR *BOS GAURUS* SMITH IN BANGLADESH

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The range of Gaur *Bos gaurus* Smith 1827 extends from southern India to Vietnam (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951; Choudhury 2002). It used to be common in the northern, north-eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh (Khan 1985; Asmat 2001; Choudhury 2002; Khan 2008). In the north and north-east, the Gaur used to occur along the foot of Garo, Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills in undivided Mymensingh and Sylhet districts. In the south-east, they used to occur in undivided Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong districts. Khan (1985) surmised that there is possibly no resident population in Bangladesh. He recorded a case in 1980 where a Gaur strayed from Garo Hills, Meghalaya, to Durgapur of

undivided Mymensingh (now in Netrakona district) was killed and its meat taken by villagers. Khan (1985) and Asmat (2001) also stated that the last gaurs in herds were probably eliminated during the war of liberation in 1971.

I here report of some recent occurrence in Comilla and Feni (part of erstwhile undivided Noakhali district) districts, which were otherwise unrecorded cases and no publication of that country such as Khan (2008) also mentioned of these. These records were obtained during field visits in the fringe villages of Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura, north-east India, in January 2008.

In 2004, a Gaur from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary strayed